

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. Applicant has included herewith a complete claim set with insertions and deletions indicated by underlining and strikethrough (or double bracketing), respectively.

1.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method for identifying compounds that modulate caspase activation-induced stabilization of a secretase pathway associated protein comprising contacting cells ~~that have been induced to undergo caspase activation~~ with a candidate modulator of secretase pathway associated protein stabilization before or after inducing the cells to undergo caspase activation, and

measuring the stability of the secretase pathway associated protein, wherein a difference in the stability of the protein relative to the stability of the protein in untreated cells is an indication that the candidate modulator is a compound that modulates the caspase activation-induced stability of the secretase pathway associated protein, wherein the secretase pathway associated protein is selected from the group consisting of: presenilins, nicastrin/Aph2, BACE, Aph1a, and Pen-2 protein.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the secretase pathway associated protein is ~~selected from the group consisting of: presenilins, nicastrin/Aph2, BACE, Aph1a, and Pen-2 protein.~~

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the cells are neuronal cells.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the caspase activation induces apoptosis.

32.-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein an increase in the stability of the protein relative to the stability of the protein in untreated cells indicates the candidate modulator is an inhibitor of stability of the secretase pathway associated protein.

53. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein a decrease in the stability of the protein relative to the stability of the protein in untreated cells indicates the candidate modulator is an enhancer of stability of the secretase pathway associated protein.

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23 [[26]], wherein the presenilin is presenilin 1.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the cells are contacted with the candidate modulator before caspase activation induction.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the cells are contacted with the candidate modulator after caspase activation induction.